

*Legislation Is Estimated to Provide 32,100 Uninsured Children with Coverage*

□

Washington, D.C. – Wednesday, Congressman Harry Teague joined a majority in the House of Representatives in support of the final version of bipartisan legislation to provide health care to 11 million children in modest-income families. The State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Reauthorization Act was approved by a vote of 290-135. Passage by the House today sent the bill to President Obama’s desk for his signature. President Obama will sign the bill later this afternoon.

“Every child from Grants to Las Cruces should be able to see a doctor when they need one,” said Congressman Harry Teague. “As a small businessman I made sure that all my employees and their families had access to affordable health coverage. I voted for this bill today because covering more eligible children is not only the right thing to do – it makes good economic sense for taxpayers who will not foot the bill for costlier problems down the road.”

This bipartisan bill reauthorizes the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) through FY 2013. It preserves the coverage for all 7.1 million children currently covered by SCHIP, including preserving the coverage of 93,000 children in New Mexico. It also provides coverage for 4.1 million uninsured children who are currently eligible for, but not enrolled in, SCHIP and Medicaid, including 32,100 children in New Mexico.

“I am proud to join my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to improve the health and chance for success for 11 million children, reduce the much more costly use of emergency rooms for primary care, and to move us closer to providing every child in our nation with affordable, high-quality health care,” said Congressman Harry Teague.

###